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**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** 10/19/2020

Dear Interested Party,

The United States Forest Service welcomes comments on the proposed Mapes Project which is intended to improve forest health and resilience, wildlife habitat, and water quality within a project area of approximately 85,000 acres on the Beckwourth Ranger District, Plumas National Forest, Plumas County. The proposed project area extends north from Portola, along the east side of Lake Davis to approximately two miles south of Antelope Lake. The east side of the project area generally parallels County Road 177 and National Forest System road 26N70.

The project proposes treatments in conifer forests, aspen stands, and meadows on approximately 45,000 acres and includes mechanical thinning, mechanical fuels treatments, hand thinning, prescribed fire, and road maintenance, reconstruction, and obliteration. A detailed description of the need for the project and proposed action is enclosed and project materials are available online at the Plumas National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56644>.

Your comments are important to us to help identify preliminary issues. Comments can help us develop project design features or alternatives, therefore, it's most helpful for comments to be as specific as possible. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the Agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

As the responsible official, I intend to use an Environmental Assessment to analyze potential environmental impacts. The draft Environmental Assessment is expected to be completed in January of 2021 and there will be a subsequent comment period. The proposed project is subject to the pre-decisional review (or objection) regulations of 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. Individuals and entities who submit timely, specific written comments regarding a proposed project or activity during any designated opportunity for public comment, including this scoping period, may file an objection. A legal notice of the opportunity to comment is expected to be published on October 21, 2020 with the newspaper of record, Oroville Mercury Register.

Comments on the proposed project must be received by 11:59 p.m. on November 19, 2020 (PST). Comments may be submitted electronically to: [comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas-beckwourth@usda.gov](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas-beckwourth@usda.gov). Comments submitted electronically must be in plain text (.txt), rich format (.rtf), Word (.doc or .docx), portable document format (.pdf), or an email message. Please include "Mapes Project" in the subject line. Written comments can be sent to Keli Ward, Beckwourth Ranger District, 23 Mohawk Rd., PO Box 7, Blairsden, CA 96103. For more information please contact Keli Ward, NEPA Planner, at [keli.ward@usda.gov](mailto:keli.ward@usda.gov). Thank you for your interest in management of the Plumas National Forest.



Sincerely,



Christopher Carlton  
Plumas National Forest Supervisor

Enclosures: Proposed Action, Project Vicinity Map, Proposed Action Map